



**MITCHELL E. DANIELS, Jr., Governor**  
**STATE OF INDIANA**

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY    JOSEPH E. WAINSCOTT JR., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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For Immediate Release  
December 17, 2008

**\*\*IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS RELEASE, SOMEONE FROM YOUR COUNTY  
WAS PRESENTED AN AWARD\*\***

## **IDHS Awards Outstanding Performance**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday, December 17, recognized 32 employees for outstanding performance and dedication.

The annual program was begun by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2006. It empowers agency heads to recognize outstanding performance by state employees. Within IDHS, employees are selected for the award based on a nomination by their supervisors and approval by the employee's division director.

Criteria for the award includes:

- Employees must have been in their current position for a minimum of 6 months employment at the time of receipt of award.
- Recipients must have engaged in exceptional performance which produced a measurable outcome such as completion of a project ahead of schedule with results that exceeded expectations, creation of a solution to a problem, or exceptional customer service.

Award recipients include:

### **Allen County**

William Doan, New Haven, Fire & Building Safety Division – Elevator & Amusement Inspector  
William Doan was presented an award for his work on getting amusement rides certified for a Michigan City festival. After spending all day in Lake County inspecting amusement rides, he agreed to work extra hours in Michigan City to allow their festival to open on time. Additionally, he worked overtime to ensure all regulated lifting devices at Lucas Oil Stadium were certified prior to opening day.

### **Clay County**

Ray Haase, Brazil, Fire & Building Safety Division – Elevator & Amusement Inspector  
Ray Haase was presented an award for working to make sure all regulated lifting devices at Lucas Oil Stadium were certified prior to opening day. He worked extra hours away from home to handle last minute schedule changes to perform inspections at the stadium along with the new airport terminal to ensure that both would meet their opening day deadline.

### **Hamilton County**

Mike Davis, Carmel, Emergency Response & Recovery Division – Radio Operator  
Mike Davis worked several extra hours over the past three months in order to train new staff members in the Dispatch area. He has set a great example to new employees and continuously shows the importance of being the first line of defense during a disaster.

Gary Robison, Carmel, Fire & Building Safety Division – Program Director

Gary Robison achieved high NFIRS for the State. His efforts increased Indiana's fire department reporting rate to 94 percent, ranking our state tenth in the nation.

John Steel, Noblesville, Planning Division – LEPC Coordinator

John Steel played an integral role with the Indiana Emergency Response Commission (IERC) which has resulted in substantive, smooth running meetings. His organization, attention to detail, and dedication to the mission of the commission was recognized by the IERC members on numerous occasions.

Additionally, he is in constant contact with Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) members providing excellent customer service and addressing their needs in a timely and efficient manner.

### **Hancock County**

Ashlee Moore, Greenfield, Emergency Response & Recovery Division – Mitigation Program Coordinator

Ashlee Moore worked extra hours to complete projects and assist during state disasters in the Emergency Operations Center. Her loyalty, hard work, and extra effort to help out when needed is greatly appreciated.

Jeff Short, McCordsville, Fire & Building Safety Division – Assistant Director of Code Administration

Jeff Short was presented an award for his excellent work in preparing presentations and leading classes for the purpose of promoting and educating our customers and staff, in addition to his normal duties. His outstanding efforts has encouraged teamwork and improved the integrity of the office.

### **Hendricks County**

Janice Lee, Plainfield, Special Projects

Janice Lee worked tirelessly in excess of 10 days setting up One Stop Shops for flooding disaster victims in September 2008. She did a great job of organizing and managing staffing needs for multiple locations during this project.

Nancy Morris, Avon, Planning Division – Emergency Preparedness Specialist

Nancy Morris was presented an award for her excellent work with the P.R.I.D.E. planning team. She accepted the challenge of recruiting, organizing, training and supervising 300 volunteer actors from across the state to provide Indiana's emergency responders a realistic environment in which to train.

### **Howard County**

Phil Brown, Kokomo, Emergency Response & Recovery Division – Recovery & Mitigation Director

Phil Brown has provided excellent service to IDHS and the citizens of Indiana. He regularly puts job responsibilities ahead of his personal schedule, working hundreds of extra hours over the past few months. His loyalty and ability to consistently deliver a positive image of IDHS is appreciated.

### **Johnson County**

Rhonda Evans-Barnsbee, Greenwood, Support & Services Division - Accountant

Rhonda Evans-Barnsbee organized the Accounts Payable section to run smoothly and efficiently. She has greatly improved the metrics even with the additional Public Assistance grant payments.

Rachel Meyer, Greenwood, Public Information Officer

Rachel Meyer was presented an award for her excellent work and important contributions to Homeland Security Day at the Indiana State Fair. She took on the responsibility of ordering all of the handouts and give-a-ways for the fair. The extra hours she worked to complete these important tasks is greatly appreciated.

### **Kosciusko County**

Harold Gunkel, Leesburg, Fire & Building Safety Division – Elevator & Amusement Inspector

Harold Gunkel was presented an award for his work on getting amusement rides certified for a Michigan City festival. After spending all day in Lake County inspecting amusement rides, he agreed to work extra hours in Michigan City to allow their festival to open on time.

### **Marion County**

Karen Allen, Indianapolis - 46218, Training Division– Secretary 3

Karen Allen led the transition of the Acadis Certification Database. The task of merging data from multiple data sources, learning the functionality of a new system, and working with developers to ensure that the system functioned as designed.

Angie Biggs, Indianapolis - 46221, Fire & Building Safety Division – Administrative Secretary

Angie Biggs was presented an award for her excellent work consolidating filing in the Fire & Building Safety office. She developed a system to quickly review the files and edited out the cases that could be stored.

Shane Booker, Indianapolis - 46205, Emergency Response and Recovery Division – Branch Chief of Operations and Response

Shane Booker has worked hundreds of extra hours to bring the State Emergency Operations Center to a high level of proficiency and professionalism.

Cindy Cleveland, Indianapolis - 46217, Fire & Building Safety Division – Administrative Assistant

Cindy Cleveland was recognized for her excellent work as an Executive Assistant and going beyond normal job duties. She assisted in writing the June flooding report, prepared the divisional budget, and created weekly reports for the section supervisors.

Gail Fennell, Indianapolis - 46214, Fire & Building Safety Division – Secretary

Gail Fennel was presented an award for her excellent work following the September storms. She worked several long days in Lake County and Madison, Indiana to provide assistance to the large volume of residents requesting aid. She worked long days to help others obtain the disaster relief assistance they needed.

Mary Fields, Indianapolis - 46217, Planning Division – Administrative Assistant

Mary Fields was presented an award for her excellent work on disaster relief efforts after the September storms. She worked long hours helping citizens through the disaster relief process in Jennings County. Fields has put forth extra effort, has held a positive attitude, and has gone above and beyond to help Homeland Security succeed in its mission.

Marci Helton, Indianapolis - 46203, State Personnel – Indiana Department of Homeland Security – Human Resources Director

Marci Helton has significantly reduced the IDHS vacancy rate. She led this agency-wide effort with great success by getting IDHS managers and supervisors to act.

Dennis Leonardo, Indianapolis - 46260, Planning Division – Applications System Analyst

Dennis Leonard worked extra hours for the upgrade to the Indiana Grants Management System (iGMS). He took all recommendations that were given and implemented them in a timely manner. The upgrade went smoothly and had no major bugs because of his hard work.

Mary Moran, Indianapolis - 46240, Emergency Response and Recovery Division – Hazard Mitigation Coordinator

Mary Moran was presented an award for her excellent work during the recovery period of 1766-DR-IN. She volunteered extra hours in order to assist with the food stamp process. She regularly put the citizens of Indiana ahead of her personal schedule and always responded when extra help was needed.

Susan Spears, Indianapolis - 46204, Support & Services Division – Travel Coordinator/Administrative Assistant

Susan Spears make important contributions in creating an IDHS Fund Center Book and an improved monthly report of IDHS Income and Revenue. These projects did not fit squarely within her job description, and both required many extra hours, great dedication and organizational abilities.

Donna Wisthoff, Indianapolis - 46219, Support & Services – Legal Assistant/Paralegal

Donna Wisthoff was presented an award for the tremendous efforts in assisting with the processing of hundreds of grant agreements in a short time frame. She maintained accurate records of the documents and has maintained a cheerful and cooperative attitude during very hectic days.

### **Marshall County**

Debbie Noel, Indianapolis, Fire & Building Safety Division – Secretary

Debbie Noel assisted in the coordination with federal and state agencies to provide opportunity for the citizens of Indiana to obtain the disaster relief they needed. She worked several long days in Lake County assisting with the flood victims from Hurricane Ike.

### **Morgan County**

Pam Bright, Martinsville, Public Preparedness Branch Chief

Pam Bright was honored for her contributions to Homeland Security Day at the Indiana State Fair. She assisted with providing appropriate staffing of the Homeland Security Display area. She also helped in coordinating non-governmental agencies that partnered with IDHS to provide public safety displays for Homeland Security Day.

Kelli Davidson, Martinsville, Fire & Building Safety Division – Secretary

Kelli Davidson worked to consolidate filing in the office to reduce the amount of floor space needed to store them. She developed a system to quickly review the files and edited out the cases that could be stored. All of this work was completed while continuing the daily activities of the Fire Investigations Office.

### **Porter County**

Robert Krzesinski, Valparaiso, Fire & Building Safety Division – Elevator & Amusement Inspector

Robert Krzesinski was presented an award for working to make sure all regulated lifting devices at Lucas Oil Stadium were certified prior to opening day. He worked extra hours away from home to handle last minute schedule changes to perform inspections at the stadium along with the new airport terminal to ensure that both would meet their opening day deadline.

### **Ripley County**

Doug Cooke, Batesville, Training Division – District 9 Emergency Management Coordinator

Doug Cooke immediately took ownership of his position of Emergency Response Logistics Chief as remnants of Hurricane Ike affected citizens across Indiana. His positive attitude, willingness to accept many challenges, and commitment to the mission resulted in expedient relief efforts for thousands of Hoosiers.

### **Steuben County**

Don LeBrun, Pleasant Lake, Fire & Building Safety Division – Field Coordinator

Don LeBrun was presented an award for the excellent work performed during the critical first days of the disaster property damage assessments. His effort was a true example of teamwork and flexibility and is greatly appreciated.

### **Vigo County**

Rick Card, Terre Haute, Emergency Response & Recovery Division – Emergency Preparedness Specialist

Rick Card worked extra hours following the September storms. He worked several long days in Lake and Clark Counties in adverse conditions and brought several agencies together to form a Disaster Relief Center where residents could obtain the assistance they needed. He provided leadership, a good attitude and was willing to go above and beyond to help Homeland Security succeed in its mission.

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